

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 6-9 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are amended.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 6 and 8 under 35 USC 102(b) over Watanabe (USP 4,545,681). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Watanabe discloses to memorize an output of the detector when detecting the reference optical beam so that the output of the detector when detecting the sample beam becomes a constant value by controlling the gain of the detector. On the contrary, in the claimed invention, the voltages to control the gain of the detector corresponding to both of a sample optical beam and a reference optical beam are memorized so as to apply a same constant voltage on the detector, that is, the gain of the detector can be a same constant value. Therefore, the accuracy of the spectrophotometer is higher.

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 7 and 9 under 35 USC 103(a) over Watanabe (USP 4,545,681) in view of Maeda *et al.* (USP 4,180,327). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

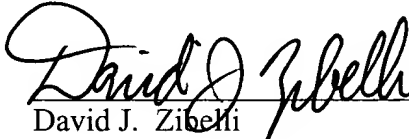
Maeda discloses to control the sensitivity of the detector so that the signal of the reference optical beam has a constant width. As there is no description that the gain of the detector can be the same constant value, the accuracy of the spectrophotometer cannot be higher such as in the presently claimed invention. Thus, since Maeda does not solve the above-noted deficiencies of Watanabe, even if combined, the cited references would not render obvious the present claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

It is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and allowance are requested.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 11, 2005



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